

Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health

The Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health is an awards program led by the Texas School Health Program. It gives Texas schools and school districts cash prizes for their school health projects that improve the lifelong physical, mental and social well-being of their students, staff and school community.

Reaching for Excellence – 4 awards at \$1200 each

Sponsored by the Texas Health Institute

For any Texas school or school district that would like to begin a new health project or has started a new health project that has been in place less than a full school year. Winners would use the award money as start-up seed funding to put the project into action.

Discovery Award – 3 awards at \$1500 each

Sponsored by the Texas Health Institute

For any Texas school or school district with current health project that has been in place for at least one full school year and has final results. Winners would use the award money to continue or grow the health project.

Health projects that have won a *Reaching for Excellence* (RFE) award should apply for this award after the project has been in place a full school year and there are final results. For example, a health project wins a 2015 RFE award. After the first school year it has been in place, there are plans to expand. The school district should apply for a Discovery award during the 2017 Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health.

Vanguard Award – 1 award at \$1000

Sponsored by the Texas Health Institute

This is for health projects that have won a Discovery award. The Discovery award winning project must still be in place and show how it has grown since the last time it won. Winners would use the award money to continue and grow the health project.

Health projects that have won a RFE and Discovery awards should apply for this award within two years of receiving their Discovery award. For example, a health project wins a 2015 RFE award and a 2017 Discovery award. There are plans to continue the project and grow it more. The school district should apply for a Vanguard award in either the 2018 or 2019 Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health.

[Award of Achievement in Obesity Prevention – 3 awards at \\$1000 each](#)

Sponsored by the Texas Pediatric Foundation

This is for health projects that apply for a Discovery or Vanguard award. These health projects must show success in decreasing obesity in adolescence by promoting nutrition and physical activity.

There is not a separate application. Texas schools or school districts should check the box on the Discovery or Vanguard application. By doing so, the health project will be put forward for the Awards of Achievement in Obesity Prevention.

[Bernstein Special Recognition](#)

Sponsored by the Texas Health Institute

These winners have successfully finished the full Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health Program. The winning projects have won a Reaching for Excellence, Discovery, and Vanguard Award within 5 years. They have also shown that their project is able to continue for a long time.

Winners have their name engraved on a plaque on permanent display in the main lobby of the Texas Department of State Health Services. To date, there has been only 2 school districts to receive this special recognition.